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Sweden

Grain and Feed

Salmonella Detected in Hog Feed

2006

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Report Highlights:

Sweden's largest feed company, Lantmannen, has discovered salmonella in hog feed. The contamination most likely originated in rapeseed raw material from a Polish feed plant.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Stockholm [SW1]
[SW]

Salmonella in Swedish Feed Plant

In December 2005 and January 2006, salmonella was detected in hog feed from Sweden's largest feed company, Lantmannen. The contamination was discovered at Lantmannen's feed plant in Åhus in southern Sweden and most likely originated in rapeseed raw material from a Polish feed plant.

Strict Salmonella Regulations in Sweden

Since 1983, Sweden has required that imports of fresh or frozen beef, pork, poultry and eggs from the EU and third countries alike be certified free from salmonella. In addition to complying with Government regulations, Swedish farmers have long operated under a voluntary program – the Swedish Farmers' Disease Control Program - with additional requirements. Under this strict control system, the incidence of salmonella in animals is considerably less than 1%.

Lantmannen, a farmer-owned cooperative with 80% share of the Swedish feed market, participates in this voluntary program.

Second Lantmannen Outbreak Since 1983 Controls

Following establishment in 1983 of stricter salmonella controls, the Swedish Board of Agriculture (BOA) reported the first major new outbreak at a feed plant in 2003. At that time, Lantmannen feed had been delivered to 100 Swedish pig farms.

The first of the most recent findings was made in late December 2005 by Lantmannen's own inspectors during a routine control of outgoing deliveries. Feed from nine pig farms was recalled but not before some had already been fed. A second finding was made on January 19, 2006 despite the fact that Lantmannen had decontaminated the plant after the early January detection.

In total, 21 farms have been investigated in 2006 due to the salmonella findings. The BOA plans to inspect 20 additional farms that have received feed from the Åhus plant.

Hog Feed Production Halted

As a result, the BOA has forced Lantmannen to halt hog feed production at the Åhus plant as of January 25, 2006. Cattle feed is not affected given that the raw material is subjected to heat treatment at the plant during processing.

The BOA will lift the hog feed restrictions once they are fully satisfied that the Lantmannen plant is, indeed, free of salmonella.

Salmonella Prevalence Still Low in Sweden

As a result of the 21 investigations conducted so far, salmonella contamination has been found on six farms. On two of the farms salmonella was detected in pigs; on a third, salmonella was found in one pig after slaughter. While this latest outbreak has not threatened Sweden's low incidence of salmonella in animals, it is clearly an incentive for Swedish farmers, as well as the BOA, to review current rules for the handling and control of feed.

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